

---

## **ARCHITECTURE IN THE RINGTURM I**

### **The Ringturm**

**5 decades in the history of a sky-scraper**

**17th June – 25th September 1998**

**Press tour:** Tuesday, 16th June 1998, 12.00 pm

**Opening:** Tuesday, 16th June 1998, 6.00 pm

#### **Exhibition site**

Wiener Städtische Allgemeine Versicherung AG

Ringturm Exhibition Centre

A-1010 Vienna, Schottenring 30

Tel: 00 43 1 531 39 1035

Fax: 00 43 1 531 39 3218

#### **Opening hours**

Monday to Friday: 9.00 am to 6.00 pm

No entry fee

#### **Public transport**

Underground: Schottenring U2,U4

Tram: Schottenring 1, 2, 31, 32

Bus: Schottenring 3A

#### **Press officer**

Tosca Purr

Tel: 00 43 1 531 39 1027

Fax: 00 43 1 531 39 3134

e-mail: [t.purr@staedtische.co.at](mailto:t.purr@staedtische.co.at)

Photographic material available on request

WIENER STÄDTISCHE  
Allgemeine Versicherung  
Aktiengesellschaft  
Schottenring 30  
P. O. Box 80  
A-1010 Wien  
Tel: 00 43 1 531 39-0  
Fax: 00 43 1 531 39-3134

---

**The Ringturm was Vienna's first high-rise office building and was characteristic of the city's architecture in the 1950s. The Wiener Städtische insurance company is now dedicating an exhibition to its headquarters. In collaboration with the Vienna Centre of Architecture, more exhibitions on the architectural theme are planned for the Ringturm.**

**The occasion:** The Ringturm opened in 1955 and recently underwent revitalisation for technical reasons. This phase is now complete, and following the redesign of the façade and interior, carried out between 1991 and 1995 (by the architects Ilse and Kurt Vana), the entrance hall can now also be officially opened. In the course of its renovation, the former banking hall has been converted into a modern exhibition centre, as per the plans of architect Boris Podrecca, and this will be used for regular architectural exhibitions.

Chairman Siegfried Sellitsch: *"The new exhibition centre should keep alive the Ringturm's atmosphere of urban development. The Wiener Städtische want to create a place for meeting, discussion and debate in their headquarters, with a strong architectural theme."*

**The Ringturm:** The 73 metre high Ringturm (Architect Erich Boltensstern; 1896 - 1991) was opened on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1955, after a construction period of two years. In this very important year for Austria, when the international treaty was signed, the Staatsoper, the Burgtheater and the Opernpassage, reconstructed by the same architect, were also opened. The Ringturm was a topographical and historical landmark, with a great deal of symbolic importance.

Boltensstern's high-rise was designed in a moderate, conservative modern age style to provide the Ringstraße, which ends here, with a concluding point and a gateway to the Danube canal and second district.

**The opening exhibition:** The opening exhibition (curator: Adolph Stiller) deals with the theme of the Ringturm in four sections. Photographs, plans, sketches and designs of the various construction phases and installations (inc. the tourist information office of Hans Hollein), as well as material from archives and collections, models and original prefabricated parts from the implementation phase, show the Ringturm under the following aspects:

- **Vision of a city** / Ringstraße, Stadtbahn railway, skyscrapers
- **A construction site on the Ring** / The vision of chairman Norbert Liebermann and the Wiener Städtische as an enterprise
- **The Ringturm** / Opening in 1955, interior, plans and designs of the various stages of construction, new design of various areas
- **The 50s** / Events from 1953 to 1955

The exhibition reflects economic and social development through five decades of construction history. In-depth information relating to contemporary and construction history can be called up with an interactive program.

**The Wiener Städtische insurance company would like to thank the following for their support:** Vienna Centre of Architecture, Vienna Historisches Museum, Vienna Stadt- und Landesarchiv, Vienna Lichtbildstelle, the Austrian National Library, ÖNB picture archive, the Institute for contemporary history – picture archive, TU Wien archive, the Austrian film archive, ORF, the Association for the history of the workers' movement / Arbeiterzeitung archive as well as all those private collections and lenders who have not been mentioned by name.